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The renovation of Osgoode from the ground up.
PRESENTS

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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

W

hat an incredible time to be at Osgoode! As an alumna and faculty member, I am immensely proud of what we are doing. Thinking back to that adrenaline-pumping day last May when we gathered with York University and government officials to officially announce the commencement of our building’s renovation and expansion still gives me goosebumps. “It’s On!” That’s a pretty strong statement, defiant even. And that is exactly what it is meant to be. Canada needs a law school that will lead the way in the 21st century and we are that school.

Our building project is the first step. We need space that is well thought-out, open and pleasant – and we need more of it. The new design will reorganize some of our existing space to make it more efficient. The addition will create a fantastic student-centred area that will contribute to a greater sense of community and well-being. In conjunction with our building aspirations, we have also taken stock of ourselves and our programs. We have looked at our strengths, as well as our weaknesses, and examined some of the world’s leading professional schools. We have subsequently introduced many new and innovative changes in a number of areas ranging from admissions to our curriculum, and teaching and learning.

I have the privilege of being the Interim Dean at a time that will be forever looked upon as a milestone in the School’s history. I expected to be in the role for only a few months, but will likely end up spending a year in the Dean’s chair. I don’t know how prepared I was to take on this position, but I can say it has been an incredible opportunity and a great learning experience. I have a completely new perspective on the School, its different constituencies and the challenges of running a modern law school program. What has been especially rewarding is the connection that I have made with alumni and hearing how important Osgoode is to them. I’m also pretty sure that I now know more about asbestos removal (the first big task we faced with our building project) than any other tax law professor in Canada.

This issue of Continuum will share with you some of the exciting developments that are taking place at Osgoode. Join us in looking forward to a bright future.

Sincerely,

Jinyan Li
Interim Dean

From Beijing to Osgoode Starting with $100
Interim Dean Jinyan Li
BA (UIBE, China), LLB (Toronto), LLM (Queen’s), Djur (Osgoode)

It was evident early on that Osgoode Interim Dean Jinyan Li was a leader. Growing up in a poor but happy family of six in a little village 50 kilometres south of Beijing that had no electricity or running water, she attended her first classes in a one-room schoolhouse. Her cheery, take-charge personality endeared her to the teacher who entrusted her with an important job: getting her fellow classmates to school on time every morning.

“My family was the only family in the village that had a clock. No one else had any idea when 9 o’clock was and when school was supposed to start. The teacher gave me a big whistle. I would walk around the village and whistle and tell people it’s time to go to school,” Li laughingly recalls.

She did well in school and was also a good athlete, which earned her a spot in Grade 6 in a boarding school in a nearby town. There was a pig pen on the edge of the boarding school’s track and field area where she met an English-speaking, Yale-educated man who had been sent by the communist regime “to be reformed in the country feeding pigs.” She started helping him with the pigs and became interested in learning English, which she did by “listening secretly to the Voice of America and the BBC on the short-wave radio.”

Flash forward to 1985, Li, an LLM candidate at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, was one of two students from her university who was chosen to study at Queen’s University Faculty of Law as a Visiting Scholar. She arrived in Canada with $100 US in her wallet – more money than she had ever possessed in her life.

She developed a passion for tax law and later went on to teach at the University of Western Faculty of Law for eight years before coming to Osgoode in 1999. She is an outstanding member of the Osgoode faculty and in 2004 won the Osgoode Teaching Excellence Award for junior faculty. In 2007 she became front page news when she testified for the defence in the Conrad Black trial in Chicago. Globe and Mail columnist Margaret Wente had this to say about Li’s testimony: “She was a brilliant witness for the defence, not least because she can make tax law almost interesting. In terms that any 12-year-old could grasp, she pretty well demolished the prosecution’s argument that certain non-compete payments made as part of the CanWest sale stank like Limburger cheese.”

As Interim Dean of Osgoode from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, Li is facing new challenges (mostly having to do with the Law School’s building renovation project) with the same determination, drive and sense of humour that have been the hallmarks of her success since she was a young girl growing up in China.

When her term as Interim Dean ends, Li, who is married with a 10-year-old daughter, will return to teaching and research. “I never imagined that I would serve as Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School. It has been such an honour and a tremendous experience.”
Since November 16, 2009, Osgoode alumni have been able to apply to convert their Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree to a Juris Doctor (JD) degree.

Visit www.yorku.ca/mygrad/jd to download and complete the application form.

A fee of $60 plus mailing fees ($25 for Canada; $40 for USA; $75 for International) will be charged for applications submitted before Sept. 1, 2010. After this date, the cost will be $80 plus mailing fees.

The change in degree designation will be reflected on the degree holder’s York University transcript and a new diploma bearing the updated designation will be issued. Alumni also have the option of picking up the new diploma.

The change in degree designation, which was approved by York University’s Senate on January 22, 2009, took effect at the June 2009 convocation ceremony and applies retroactively to alumni who choose to convert their degree.

The move to the JD is part of a growing trend among law schools in Canada and internationally to acknowledge that the degree holder has completed a period of post-secondary education prior to entering law school and that law is a second-entry degree.

### Tax Breaks: Good or Bad?

Osgoode hosted the international conference on Tax Expenditures and Public Policy in Comparative Perspective, which brought together experts from around the globe last September to debate the growing tendency of governments to use the tax system as a policy tool.

Tax incentives and subsidies now play a significant role in every major area of social and economic policy. Recent examples in Canada include the home renovation tax credit and tax-free savings accounts. Internationally, governments have used tax measures in diverse ways as they respond to emerging needs and political pressures in areas such as health, education, income security, climate change, industrial restructuring, pensions, science and research, housing, philanthropy and the arts. Yet, the strategy of using tax policy to address these issues remains hotly contested.

Despite many points of controversy there was broad agreement about the urgent need to improve the way countries enact and account for tax incentives. There is plenty of expert criticism about the poor return on many tax breaks but once enacted into law they tend to sit in the tax code permanently. Unlike many direct spending programs, they need not be reviewed or re-approved through the legislative process.

The eagerness to participate in the forum came not only from academia, but also from think-tanks, the non-profit sector, government and the tax bar.

Among the many well-known speakers were Osgoode Professors Lisa Philipps, Neil Brooks and Jinyan Li; Professor Edward Kleinbard of University of Southern California Gould School of Law (formerly Chief of Staff of the US Congress Joint Committee on Taxation); Professor Jack Mintz, Palmer Chair in Public Policy at the University of Calgary; Professor Rick Krever of Monash University in Australia; journalist and author Linda McQuaig; and Professor Lily Batchelder of New York University School of Law. Osgoode Alumni President and tax lawyer, John Tobin ’87 of Torys LLP also spoke at the conference.

The conference was sponsored by the Canadian Tax Foundation, York University, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law at Osgoode and the Schulich School of Business.
Professor Janet Walker pays tribute to Canada’s leading authority on procedural law.

Garry Watson retires after 43 years at Osgoode

The retirement of Garry D. Watson brings with it the welcome opportunity to reflect on a truly extraordinary career. Garry was the last remaining member of our faculty to have come to York University with the Law School from Osgoode Hall, having joined the faculty in 1966. Born in Australia, he emigrated after completing his first law degree there and paused en route to Toronto—first, to teach as a legal writing fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and then, to complete an LLM at Yale.

Perhaps as a result of his time at Penn and Yale, Garry arrived here ready to foster the very best in the teaching of procedural law. Spurning any division between theory and practice, he built an academic career that has shaped the field in Canada.

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Perhaps as a result of his time at Penn and Yale, Garry arrived here ready to foster the very best in the teaching of procedural law. Spurning any division between theory and practice, he built an academic career that has shaped the field in Canada. Generations of lawyers have developed a critical approach to the subject through the casebook on civil procedure that he began with Stephen Borins and Neil Williams in 1973 and that is currently in its 7th edition with a dozen authors from across the country. Thousands of practitioners have honed their skills in the Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop, an annual eight-day program that he founded in 1979; and similar numbers of third-year law students have benefited from the Trial Practice Seminar, an LLB course modelled on it. In recent years, Garry’s pioneering seminar on class actions has advanced the understanding of that field, and his series of symposia on class actions at Osgoode Professional Development have stimulated new thought among leading figures from the bench, bar and academy.

Spending his years of sabbatical leave in major Toronto law firms ensured that Garry could talk the talk and walk the walk. As a result, his writings have become a primary source of guidance in civil procedure to countless practitioners over the years. His annually published annotation of the Rules, Watson & McGowan, and his loose-leaf commentary, Holmsted & Watson, are standard reference works. His leading articles have continued to be consulted, many, many years after their publication. His contributions to the work of the Ontario Law Reform Commission, the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, the Rules Committees of several provinces, the American Law Institute, and the International Association of Procedural Law are the hallmark of the best that can be achieved by applying the combined insights of the academic and the practitioner to the challenging questions law reform.

So much more could be said. As a teacher, a colleague and a mentor to lawyers of all stages in their careers, Garry has been truly larger than life. A model of passionate engagement, his terse interjections sharpen the debate just as frequently as his hearty laughter warms the room. His frank but remarkably astute criticism is unfailingly coupled with genuine admiration for real achievement so that he merits, and receives, the respect and affection of an extraordinary range of the most accomplished members of the legal community.

It is gratifying to know that Garry’s extensive contributions to the profession have not gone unrecognized. The Law Society Medal (1992) and the David Mundell Medal for outstanding contribution to the law through legal writing by the Ontario Bar Association (2005) are testament to the high esteem in which he is held by members of the profession in Ontario. And the Samuel E. Gates Litigation Award (2004), which is given by the American College of Trial Lawyers only in years when a deserving recipient is found, and which is usually reserved for a judge or a practising lawyer, is a fitting tribute to one of the great proceduralists of our time. As for Garry’s contributions to the legal academy and to Osgoode, a well-deserved teaching award and the emerging plans for a festschrift are but small tokens of our sincere regard for him. The students and faculty at Osgoode have inherited a rich and multi-faceted curriculum and a lively scholarly community, both animated by discussions and areas of scholarly inquiry that will continue to be inspired by Garry’s work for many years to come. We sincerely hope that, notwithstanding his retirement, Garry will continue to be an active participant in them.

Professor Janet Walker ’93 has been a faculty member at Osgoode since 1996 teaching Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws and International Commercial Arbitration. She served with Professor Watson as an international advisor to the ALI Project on Transnational Rules; she is the general editor of the 7th edition of his casebook on civil litigation; and a member of the Council of the International Association of Procedural Law.
A Gift for JD Students Today and Bequeath for Students Tomorrow

Two highly educated women who have never met have much in common: their independence and ambition at a time when women had few sanctioned career or life choices; their passion for community service; and their ultimate commitment to law studies at Osgoode.

Sandra Birnbaum ’77, ’99 (LLM) and Mary-Frances Madill ’81 also share their gratitude for the quality of their legal education and their awareness of its current cost. As a result, they have established endowed awards in their names for qualified JD students in financial need at Osgoode, awards matched through the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS).

At the suggestion of Osgoode’s Office of Advancement, the Birnbaum and Madill awards are being awarded during their lifetimes and enhanced through bequests in their wills: a strategy that strongly appeals to these women of legal training, thought and action.

For Birnbaum and Madill, now retired, studying law hovered in the backs of their minds. After establishing careers in other areas—Birnbaum in teaching and broadcasting, and Madill in psychology—they grasped that opportunity. Osgoode proved to be a capstone of their accomplishments.

“I was in the first Osgoode class to graduate a substantial number of women,” Birnbaum recalls. She also became one of the first four women Masters to be appointed in 1998/1999 in Toronto to the Superior Court Justice, where she heard countless motions and conducted many pretrials, using her skills in Alternative Dispute Resolution, her humour and her compassion.

Previously Birnbaum taught English for a decade, building on her undergraduate and graduate degrees in English and speech, broadcasting and film. She has taught in a Chicago ghetto, developed some of the first film courses for Toronto schools in the late 1960s and was one of the first teachers in alternative schooling in the province. She was also involved in the early days of Ontario public broadcasting. Birnbaum has been actively involved with Parkdale Community Legal Services, the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) at its inception in the 1980s, headed up Etobicoke Legal Aid for seven years, and focused on family law during her years in private practice.

For her part, Madill says, “I have always been so appreciative of the privilege of education, and nowhere more so than through my LLB. Law continued to teach me how to think logically and rigorously.”

Madill studied at six universities throughout her career. Like Birnbaum, she also worked while studying, to support herself and finance her education, and even managed her own real estate and construction/renovation businesses. A clinical and research psychologist, Madill was the first woman PhD graduate from Queen’s University. In the 1960s and 70s, she worked extensively with and advocated for patients with chronic mental illnesses at the then Whitby Psychiatric Hospital. Ultimately Madill combined her psychology and law careers, working in forensics with a criminal lawyer and in her independent psychology practice.

If there is one last thing Birnbaum and Madill share, it is curiosity. They are eager to know how students benefiting from their awards are progressing. Since they are giving today and bequesting for tomorrow, they’ll be sure to find out.

Editor’s Note: Sadly, Mary-Frances Madill passed away this winter as Continuum was going to press.

Lisa E. Boyes is a freelance writer from Toronto. This is her first article in Continuum.

If you are interested in making a bequest to Osgoode or would like to establish a student award, please contact Anita Herrmann, Director of the Osgoode Advancement Office, aherrmann@osgoode.yorku.ca or 416-736-5364.
Heartfelt Advice from Two Legal Titans at 2009 Spring Convocation

Honorary Doctorate recipients Vibert Lampkin and Paul Weiler each spoke about the importance of service, justice and ensuring the legal system remains humane.

Retired Ontario Court justice and legal scholar Vibert Lampkin ‘77 (LLM) and Harvard University law professor and Canadian constitutional scholar Paul Weiler ‘64 were presented with Honorary Doctorates at the 2009 Osgoode Spring Convocation for their contributions to legal scholarship, overcoming barriers and their transformational influence on the practice of law. A lifetime of service to the legal profession and dedication to the study of the law resulted in valuable advice to graduates in their Convocation addresses.

Lampkin urged graduates to use their training to better the world and to consider a variety of professions. There is a certain discipline that is unique to the study of law, Lampkin told graduates, saying that this discipline serves as a strong foundation for other careers. He urged graduates to pursue, in addition to their roles as lawyers, alternative careers in public service, government and business where the skills obtained through the study of law are highly valued.

“Whatever direction you take, whether as a practising lawyer, public servant, politician, in business or as a diplomat,” said Lampkin, “remember always that deep in the heart of each and every one of us, there is a common theme – we must each work for justice and peace because we are all one.”

For Paul Weiler, the Henry J. Friendly Professor of Law Emeritus at Harvard Law School and a former professor at Osgoode, it was a homecoming. Weiler, who is considered by many in the legal and academic communities to be the foremost labour law scholar in North America, is also one of Canada’s leading constitutional scholars. He taught at Osgoode from 1965 to 1981 before joining Harvard Law School, and has advised governments in both the US and Canada.

He urged graduates to consider the law as an activity of the heart. “I am certain that all of you have well-developed capacities for legal thinking and strategizing,” said Weiler. “I hope that you have the same capacity for empathy. As lawyers, or government policy-makers, or eventually as judges, you should try to ensure that our legal system is humane and that it treats those who engage with it as humans with all the consideration and respect this signifies.

“Apply this advice as well to the way you approach your personal life,” said Weiler. “Do not neglect your human selves by devoting all your time and energy to professional demands. It is impossible to imagine someone at the end of life regretting not having spent more time in the office.”

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association

The tenth Annual General Meeting of the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the Portrait Room, Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto Ontario

Copies of the agenda will be available in advance through the Osgoode Alumni Office, 416-736-5638, alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca

All alumni are welcome. Positive RSVPs appreciated.
COVER STORY

IT’S ON!

The renovation of Osgoode from the ground up.

It’s more than just the building that’s changing. The creation of new programs, policies and centres will put Osgoode out in front.

The Osgoode Building: A Project Overview
New Admission Policy Stresses Excellence and Equity
Regulating la Cité Imaginée: Innovative Urban Governance Research at Osgoode
New Mediation Intensive Clinical Program
The Osgoode Building

A Project Overview

by Peter Lee
Once the announcement was made that Osgoode would receive $25 million from the Federal-Provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program toward the building renovation and construction project things moved fast. The project was ‘shovel ready’ but the announcement came earlier than expected, which brought some interesting challenges. Top of the list: where would the Law School move during the project? Fortunately, the University’s senior administration had just moved into the new York Research Tower. The timing was perfect and most of Osgoode’s faculty and staff moved into their vacant offices on the 8th floor of the Ross Building.

Classes are still being held in the Osgoode building but fences and hoarding walls have been erected. Students do find it tricky to be in a building without a cafeteria and with little common space, but we’re working to find creative solutions to improve the space available. The good news is that thick concrete walls protect from any noise so the demolition and construction have been able to continue while classes are on.

The description below will give a sense of the scope and the timeline of the project. Alumni will be invited to a grand opening when the project is completed in 2011.

**PACK/MOVE/UN-PACK**
(July 1 – September 17, 2009)
- 190 staff & faculty offices, some with 40 years of books, papers and other forgotten items, packed in six weeks and moved in six days
- More than 500,000 law library books packed and shipped off to a storage facility or re-located to temporary facilities
- 350 large bins of paper recycled
- 17,000 packing boxes and 120 roles of tape used

**SITE SET-UP**
(August 1 – September 17, 2009)
- Bird Construction Company erects chain link fencing to enclose the perimeter of the site
- Construction trailers set-up on site
- Hoarding walls constructed in the interior of the building to separate the classrooms from the demolition/construction site
- Earth around perimeter of building removed and backfilled with stone in order to accommodate the weight of the heavy machinery being used on site

**DEMOLITION**
(September 18, 2009 – May 31, 2010)
- Bird Construction Company, Pinchin Environmental and RBG (a demolition & hazardous waste removal company) seal off asbestos abatement areas to allow the safe removal of asbestos from the building
- Continuous monitoring of air quality during abatement period. Test results immediately shared with the Osgoode community to ensure the classroom portion can be safely occupied
- All interior walls in the office tower (with the exception of stairwells, elevator shafts and air duct shafts) have been removed from the ground floor to the fourth floor
- Mixing area staircases leading from the ground floor to the second floor of the classroom wing have been demolished
- Concrete slabs from Osgoode terrace (library roof) removed

**CONSTRUCTION**
(February, 2010 – March 31, 2011)
- Steel framework to be erected for new one-storey addition on Osgoode terrace
- Two-storey glass atrium running from the east to the west side of the building constructed to form new central hall
- Reinforcement of the ground floor concrete slab to accommodate increased weight load for accessible compact shelving in the library
- All interior faculty and administrative offices constructed
- Main entrance on the east side of the building renovated to become a modern and highly visible structure
- Construction of rare book room with stand alone heating, ventilation and air conditioning to house Osgoode’s unique collection of rare books
- Construction of new Junior Common Room for students on the west side of the building with large windows facing north and west toward the York pond
- New windows installed in classrooms 106, 107, 206 and 207

**All new:**
- Electrical wiring
- Network & telecommunications cabling
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning system
- Fire alarm system & sprinkler system

**RE-OCCUPANCY**
(April 1, 2011 – August 31, 2011)
- Move all faculty, staff, student government & external agencies into the building
- Classes are still being held while classes are on.

Osgoode is aiming for LEED Silver Certification, below is a list of highlights on how we are ‘greening’ the building.
- High-efficiency (low-flow) water fixtures will be used to reduce potable water use by 30 per cent
- Lighting and the lighting control system will be optimized, to reduce energy use and improve visual environmental quality
- The Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning System will be optimized, to improve indoor comfort and reduce energy consumption
- A comprehensive commissioning plan will be developed and implemented, to ensure the systems are designed and installed as intended
- EnergyStar-certified appliances (copiers, printers, microwaves etc.) will be used to reduce energy consumption
- A construction waste management plan has been implemented, to divert at least 75 per cent of demolition and construction waste from landfill by recycling and reusing materials

Peter Lee is the Assistant Director Operations for Osgoode Hall Law School and the School’s liaison on the building project.
New Admissions Policy Stresses Excellence and Equity

There are few more important decisions that can be made by a law school than which people to admit to its ranks. The basic challenge is to ensure that a school attracts and admits the best entering class. For Osgoode, this has always meant admitting a group that is as socially diverse as it is academically-talented. As such, the mission of any new admissions policy was deemed to be that of admitting a class of excellent students whose diversity, energy and engagement will enrich the educational experience for each other and make a social and intellectual contribution to the law school, legal profession and community. The ambition was tried-and-true, but better and more innovative methods were required to achieve it.

Although Osgoode’s existing admissions policy and process had served the community well, it was time to review policies and procedures to determine if it still met the needs of the School. It had been chopped and changed over the years, and further slight revisions would not improve the overall system. It was time for a thorough overhaul. A broad and lengthy consultation process was instituted and, after much deliberation and revision, a new admissions policy was approved in 2007 and took effect in the fall of 2008 for students entering in 2009.

The new admissions policy not only brings Osgoode in line with best practices as adopted and implemented by almost all leading law schools in North America, it also enables Osgoode to administer an admissions policy that is fairer, more efficient and, most importantly, results in a more consistently diverse and academically-talented class of entering students.

It was designed with the goal of developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to admissions that balances individual and collective considerations, establishes a definition of best which incorporates both academic excellence and social diversity, maintains open and transparent procedures, and broadens the criteria of assessment.

Under the new policy, instead of the old bifurcated system, each applicant’s file is scrutinized and measured against the same set of admissions criteria. In particular, students are required to self-designate themselves as candidates for discretionary admission. The only exceptional to this is the process for aboriginal students for whom it was thought compelling to maintain a separate category of admissions.

The policy is reflective of best practices at leading North American law schools and will ensure Osgoode admits a diverse and academically talented class.

by Allan Hutchinson

Professor Allan Hutchinson is the Chair of the Admissions Committee and has been a member of the Osgoode faculty since 1982.
Meet Three Members of the Class of 2012 by Christine Ward

Last summer, before starting his first year at Osgoode, Kristaq Lala went home. For the first time in more than a decade, he boarded a flight to Tirana, the capital of Albania, where he last set foot in 1997 amidst massive political unrest and social turmoil.

“The language and the culture were as I remembered, but at the same time I felt like a stranger,” says Kris.

Much has happened since the then 16-year-old moved to the United States as part of a six-month international education program. He boarded with three different families in Salt Lake City, Utah before moving to Boston, Massachusetts, working at a deli and eventually graduating from high school. In 2003, Kris’ parents moved from Albania to Toronto, and opportunity knocked. “It became possible for me to return to school. Not right away, but I waited, took some classes and then started at York.”

He graduated in 2009 with an honours BA in history and philosophy, and with a newfound respect for the law as a barometer of social norms and values. “So often in history we evaluate people’s lives by looking at their most trying moments, which are often connected with the law,” he says. Kris applied to Osgoode and was accepted for a graduate and American Film Institute alumni was assistant to Kathleen Kennedy, the six-time Academy Award nominated movie producer behind such films as Seabiscuit, Munich and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. Over 11 years beginning in 1998 — first as a production supervisor at the Canadian Film Centre, then as an employee of the Kennedy/Marshall Company in Los Angeles and, more recently, Toronto’s E1 Entertainment International — Deanne learned the ins and outs of the film industry. Today, she’s back at York, applying those experiences to a second career in law.

“I love the fact that films tell interesting stories about personal injustices and triumphs,” she explains. “Law translates those stories into reality.” That’s not to say the transition from studio to lecture hall was easy. “It’s completely terrifying,” says Deanne. “This isn’t just about taking my career to the next level; I’m starting an entirely new career. The excitement of that makes up for some of the terror.”

For the first time, Deanne says she’s stepped outside a world where everyone shares similar viewpoints and goals, and into a culture that values differing ideas and offers wide-ranging opportunities. With any luck, she hopes to find a way to jumpstart a second career that blends her interests in entertainment and international law.

“I have former colleagues who say they can’t wait for me to graduate and represent them,” she says. “I’d be a great advocate for a filmmaker.”

Five years ago, Deanne Sowter’s exposure to the practice of law involved the hundreds of pages of contracts required to take a movie from dream to reality. The York fine arts graduate and graduate and American Film Institute alumni was assistant to Kathleen Kennedy, the six-time Academy Award nominated movie producer behind such films as Seabiscuit, Munich and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. Over 11 years beginning in 1998 — first as a production supervisor at the Canadian Film Centre, then as an employee of the Kennedy/Marshall Company in Los Angeles and, more recently, Toronto’s E1 Entertainment International — Deanne learned the ins and outs of the film industry. Today, she’s back at York, applying those experiences to a second career in law.

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You can forgive Mark Freake for leaving a little early for Christmas vacation. It took the first-year Osgoode student three days, a plane, a ferry and an automobile before landing in the isolated Inuit-Metis community of 300 he calls home on the south coast of Labrador.

“I didn’t have the opportunity to leave very often,” he says of the 17 years he spent growing up amidst exceptionally challenging circumstances. Mark’s mother continues to battle a serious mental illness and he remembers his father’s struggle to find work in the wake of the 1992 Cod Moratorium.

“My life took a 180 degree turn when I started university.”

Mark’s first-year psychology class at Memorial University was 300 students, the size of his entire hometown and 25 times that of Charlottetown, Labrador’s entire one-room high school.

Over the next four years, Mark threw himself into university life, attending a leadership workshop hosted by Global Vision, the 2007 National Youth Caucus in Ottawa and the 2008 APEC Leaders’ Summit in Lima, Peru. As a member of Junior Team Canada, he was also invited to participate in a trade and development mission to Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia, where he met with trade delegations from countries around the world and spent time with disadvantaged children.

“It completely changed my outlook on life.” Anxious to make a difference, Mark chose to follow his political science studies with a degree from Osgoode. But a piece of his heart will always remain in the north.

“In 20 years, I’d love to look back and say I contributed to the development of Labrador and to awareness about mental illness.”
Regulating la Cité Imaginée: Innovative Urban Governance Research at Osgoode

For almost two years now, the Collaborative Urban Research Laboratory (CURL or the ‘Lab’), under the auspices of Osgoode’s Critical Research Laboratory in Law & Society (www.criticalresearchlab.org) has been adding a complex and layered perspective to the study of cities through an unusual mix of research and artistic production. CURL takes an innovative, interdisciplinary as well as visual approach to the study of cities and urbanity today. Global cities such as Toronto, Paris, London, Tokyo or Mumbai have long been the research target of social scientists, lawyers, geography and urban studies scholars. CURL builds on this work, but challenges the boundaries between the academic enterprise and the cité imaginée, the city in its centuries-old artistic, visual and literary depiction and representation. This presents an unprecedented and unparalleled opportunity for lawyers and urban studies theorists to interact with photographers, digital media artists and documentary filmmakers with a view to mutual exchange, challenge and collaborative production.

EXPANDING THE STUDY OF CITIES
Why now? Urban studies have become a regular component of today’s interdisciplinary social science curriculum at leading universities, at York and around the world. By connecting scholars of local government, global cities or transnational migration with artists exploring these themes through traditional and digital media, the Lab reinvigorates the meaning of interdisciplinarity. Why Osgoode? At a law school, the creation of the Lab constitutes an altogether daring, risky initiative, but it is driven by the belief that legal scholars and practitioners can be both drivers and beneficiaries of this type of research innovation. CURL explores and pushes the compatibility of different approaches, vocabularies and methodologies. This process presents inevitable challenges for lawyers to question the strengths and weaknesses of their own discipline. Besides the fruitful interaction between academia and art, CURL marks the crucial and still rarely found introduction of law to the increasingly comprehensive disciplinary mix, which constitutes urban studies. Approaching urban governance as a regulatory field of crucial importance, law must rethink notions of property, public and private, access to local infrastructure and services, and even larger questions of democratic representation.
RESEARCH INNOVATION
CURL was made possible through Osgoode’s second substantive infrastructure grant awarded in the winter of 2007 by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Ontario Innovation Trust (OIT) and through in-kind contributions from leading firms in multimedia production. During Osgoode’s renovation, CURL is housed in the Computer Methods Building on York’s Keele campus, offering a state-of-the-art multimedia and research facility for scholars, faculty and students as well as practitioners and artists. They have access to a unique and unparalleled environment for research and artistic multimedia creation with individual working spaces, a gathering area and small conference room with screening facility for seminars and lectures, along with suites with photo/film/video and sound editing equipment. The Lab’s equipment is available for approved project proposals on urban governance that demonstrate a strong collaborative element, says Mars Horodyski, a filmmaker and CURL’s artistic director for 2009-2010 (www.cinemars.ca). “There are a lot of artists doing really interesting work on cities,” says Horodyski, whose work won several prizes and who in 2009 shot: “Where the Sidewalk Begins: The University and the Global City, CURL’s first documentary featuring interviews with Toronto’s university presidents and some of the world’s leading urban governance experts. With a script co-written by Horodyski and Zumbansen, it was produced for and with support from York’s 50th Anniversary, screened in June 2009 and is now available on the CURL Web site at http://www.criticalresearchlab.org/curl/.

COLLABORATIVE SPACES
CURL has started the ‘Reading Lab’, a weekly, university-wide, multidisciplinary research forum. ‘We discuss work by legal and other scholars, filmmakers and art theorists brought together as widely varied as we can in order to explore the multifaceted nature of the City’, says Gregory Smith, a PhD student at Osgoode and CURL’s acting academic director. The Lab further hosts Artists-in-Residence (CURL-AiR) and offers a Screening Series of classical and new films on cities. CURL’s first annual conference was convened in March 2009 under the theme of “The Learning City”, organized by Osgoode faculty and graduate students with support from the ‘Harry Arthurs Fund’ and York. Inspired by the conference’s great success, featuring speakers such as Toronto Mayor David Miller, along with numerous lawyers, activists and scholars, CURL will publish the presented papers in a collection under the leadership of Danielle Allen, who holds a BA in Urban Studies from York and a 2009 JD from Osgoode. The other follow-up project from the ‘Learning City’ is the inauguration of the “The Knowledgeable City” public forum, starting in the fall of 2010, as an unprecedented platform for multi-stakeholder discussions of current urban governance issues in Toronto and beyond. For more information on how to get involved, visit the CURL Web site.

Visionary Student Leadership Helps Create New Mediation Intensive Clinical Program

by Virginia Corner

Osgoode’s exciting new Mediation Intensive Clinical Program is a dream come true, not only for the Law School, York University and the broader community, but also for a group of law student visionaries who helped to create it.

Thanks to Radhika Lakhani ’07, Andrew Magnus ’08, Julia Tomson ’08 and Vera Toppins (Spirovski) ’07 who founded “The ADR Project” in 2006, and who were subsequently joined by Chad Aboud ’10, Kimberly Bonnar ’09, Carla Goncalves Gouveia ’07, Alastair (AJ) Macdonald ’09 and Nicole Melanson ’09, the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program was established in September 2009.

These nine students, led by Lakhani’s energy and enthusiasm, were responsible for introducing an experiential learning component to the study of mediation at Osgoode, which would eventually become a full-year intensive clinical program, and ultimately a Mediation Clinic, ready to serve the needs of the surrounding community.

The ADR Project brought in mediation experts to speak to Osgoode students about why it is important for lawyers to understand and utilize mediation skills, and how it affects the practice of law regardless of one’s chosen practice area. They organized and conducted mediation training sessions in the boardrooms of various law firms. With the assistance of Osgoode faculty and the Office of the Dean, The ADR Project also applied for and received a substantial grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO) to start a Mediation Clinic.

The LFO grant was the catalyst for the appointment in July 2009 of lawyer and mediator Leanne Shafir as Director of Osgoode’s Mediation Intensive Clinical Program. Shafir is responsible for developing and delivering the curriculum for the new program, and along with an advisory board, students, and the community, will design and develop a Mediation Clinic, which will assist the community to resolve conflicts using non-adversarial resolution options and techniques.

“Through the collective energy, dedication and commitment of these students, this has evolved into an exciting new clinical program,” Shafir said. “In our inaugural year of operation, we have 12 second and third-year students, participating in a nine-credit, full-year clinical program, learning mediation skills, and implementing these skills to assist the community.”

Mediation is a process that utilizes a mediator – a neutral and impartial third party – who sits down with both sides to reach a decision that they are both happy with.

Mediation is a process that utilizes a mediator – a neutral and impartial third party – who sits down with both sides to reach a decision that they are both happy with. Alternative (or as some prefer to call it “Appropriate”) Dispute Resolution (ADR) looks at ways to resolve disputes without going to court. Mediation is a form of ADR.

Students in the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program have been learning the theory of mediation through role-playing, simulations, intensive training and readings. They have had the opportunity to observe and conduct restorative justice mediations, mediate at Small Claims Court, observe mediations at the Human Rights Tribunal, and connect with York’s Office of Student Conduct and Dispute Resolution to conduct mediations in a mentorship role with undergraduate students. In the winter semester, they will continue to apply theory to practice, working collaboratively with each other and with the community to design the Mediation Clinic.

“The Mediation Intensive Clinical Program presents the opportunity to learn more about managing conflict and resolving disputes using an interest-based approach and to gain insights from both a theoretical and a practical perspective,” said program participant and second-year student Darren Hall. He is a member of the Osgoode team that won the 2009 Canadian National Mediation Advocacy Competition and went on to finish third at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris, France in February.

Third-year student Ritu Gupta appreciates the variety of training and practice sessions in the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program, and loves the way the program’s weekly seminars are run. “Professor Shafir encourages us to discuss the readings and reflect on our
experiences as we progress through the year,” said Gupta who would like to one day work as a mediator in Toronto. “I especially look forward to the second semester when we will put all of our skills to good use and help in building Osgoode’s Mediation Clinic.”

Shafir notes that mediation and mediation advocacy have permeated all areas of law, and mediation is mandatory under the Rules of Civil Procedure. “So even if law students are not going to become mediators, the skills they learn and acquire while studying mediation are the very skills they require as effective negotiators and mediation advocates. In other words, these tools will be invaluable to students’ future practice.”

The Law School’s renovation and expansion plans call for the development of the Paul B. Helliwell Centre for Innovation in Dispute Resolution, a high-tech facility that will house a number of Osgoode’s clinical education programs including the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program. Shafir surmises, however, that in addition to using the Helliwell Centre, the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program’s services will also be delivered within the community. Meeting space at the York University - TD Community Engagement Centre, a teaching, research and resource centre that fosters partnerships between the community and the University, is currently being put to good use for learning and mediation sessions. “What I want to ensure is that the Mediation Clinic provides services to the community in a forum that meets their needs, and is created through an understanding of their interests.”

Another goal of The ADR Project and the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program has been getting the mediation students to understand the broad range of processes available to assist in the resolution of conflict, which includes an understanding of how disputes can be prevented in the first place. “You can try to prevent disputes from escalating by teaching people how to resolve their own conflicts,” said Shafir who has been working in mediation services for a dozen years. “The ideal is that problems get resolved at a true grassroots level by a community that has the skills to do that on their own. To this end, students will also be involved in education and training within the community.”

Cont’d on next page
Lakhani, who has her own family law practice in Toronto and is also pursuing a Master of Laws (LLM) degree at Osgoode in Alternative Dispute Resolution, is thrilled to see the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program get off the ground.

“I believe this whole thing is extremely exciting,” said Lakhani, who will continue her involvement with the program under Shafir’s direction as part of her graduate studies. “The timing of bringing this mediation program to Osgoode perfectly coincides with the Law School’s expansion of its public interest work and the formation of the Helliwell Centre. The Mediation Clinic has also been propelled by the unmistakable public demand for dispute resolution outside of the courtroom and increased access to justice.”

Lakhani believes the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program couldn’t be at a better law school. “Osgoode has an amazing Alternative Dispute Resolution faculty, undergraduate and graduate program - all the theoretical foundations that a school would need for the makings of a successful mediation clinic and clinical intensive program.” Indeed, the new Mediation Clinic fits extremely well within Osgoode’s long and leading tradition of ADR teaching and scholarship pioneered by Osgoode professors such as Paul Emond and Fred Zemans.

Lakhani notes that the legal profession is evolving and the next generation of lawyers will be graduating from law school “fully-equipped to provide legal services as well as negotiation, settlement and mediation-focused services that will meet the needs of the individuals and communities that they serve.”

Adds Shafir: “A primary goal of this program is to create a forum where law students learn how to resolve disputes and solve problems in an interest-based manner. They can then utilize these tools in their future practices, serving their clients in what we hope is a more effective way.”

For further information about the Mediation Intensive Clinical Program, contact Leanne Shafir at lshafr@osgoode.yorku.ca.

Virginia Corner is the Communications Manager at Osgoode Hall Law School.
Alumni Gold Key Awards

The Alumni Gold Key Awards honour the outstanding achievements and contributions of Osgoode alumni. Up to 10 awards may be given annually. This is your opportunity to nominate an Osgoode alumna or alumnus for this prestigious award. Recipients will be presented with the award at the Dean’s Annual Alumni Reception on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

CATEGORIES

1. Achievement: recognizes exceptional professional achievement
   - A record of professional accomplishment
   - Proven leadership and commitment in a chosen field of endeavour
   - Recognizable contribution to the Law School and/or the community at large

2. Recent Graduate: recognizes exceptional professional achievement of recent graduates
   - Graduated in the last 10 years
   - High levels of achievement early in one’s chosen career or profession
   - Demonstrated leadership capability
   - Recognizable contribution to the Law School and/or the community at large

3. Public Sector: recognizes the achievements of public sector or government lawyers
   - Sustained outstanding service or a specific extraordinary accomplishment
   - Significant contributions to social justice or public service
   - Recognizable contribution to the Law School and/or the community at large

4. Service: acknowledges significant contributions of time and energy to Osgoode Hall Law School and/or the Alumni Association
   - Demonstrate leadership, commitment and support for the Law School
   - Support the Law School’s alumni efforts
   - Advancement of the Law School’s objectives or goals

APPLICATION PROCESS

Nomination submissions must include:
- A letter from the nominator outlining how the nominee meets the criteria of the award
- CV or biography
- Up to a maximum of four letters of support
- Up to a maximum of four pages of additional material

To fill out a nomination form, or for more information, visit: www.osgoodealumni.ca

Nominations may be mailed or emailed to:
Advancement Office
Osgoode Hall Law School
York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
Phone: 416-736-5638
Email: alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca

Deadline for receipt of 2010 nominations is April 2, 2010

Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice through Law

This medal will be awarded to a member of the Canadian legal community who has exemplified Dianne’s commitment to law as an instrument for achieving social justice and fairness.

NOMINATION SUBMISSION
- Letter of nomination outlining how the nominee meets the criteria of the medal
- Biography of the nominee (not to exceed two pages)
- Maximum of four letters of support
- Maximum of four pages of additional materials

Please send your package to:
Advancement Office
Osgoode Hall Law School
York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
Tel. 416-736-5638
Email: alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca

Completed nomination submissions must be received by April 2, 2010.
The time on the email reads 3:50 a.m. and Sergio Marchionne ’83, the charismatic CEO of Fiat and Chrysler, is wondering if it’s too late for an interview. Of course, it’s mid-afternoon in Turin, Italy, where Marchionne writes, his latest stop following criticisms of an admittedly “modest” showing at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January. Not that time or opinion matters to the often elusive Osgoode graduate. Rebuilding the troubled North American car manufacturer is a 24-7 job. Sleep, he’s been known to say, is a luxury he can’t afford.

Day or night, though, it’s apparent Osgoode is on Marchionne’s mind. “It’s a phenomenal school,” he says.

To prove memory serves him right, Marchionne, now 57, cruised past his alma mater while in town this December, his first glimpse of campus since graduating more than 25 years ago. “I got lost,” he chuckles. “There are so many advances.” Most significant among them, of course, is construction of Osgoode’s new Law School slated for completion in 2011. What Marchionne hopes hasn’t changed, though, is the quality and diversity of the teaching that he says “was something to behold” in the mid-1980s.

“When you travel and work internationally, you realize there is a fundamental difference between the Anglo-Saxon version of the law and the Americanized version of the Anglo-Saxon legal process. Osgoode provided a subtle bridge between these two realities. It allowed me to experience the American tradition, while retaining the integrity and rigour of the British system. It’s an unusual school in that respect. It has helped me in my international work, especially within the American system.”

Since taking the helm of Chrysler last July when the automaker emerged from bankruptcy protection and partnered with Fiat SpA, Marchionne has spent increasing time in the US. At Chrysler’s head office in Auburn Hills, Michigan, he’s showcasing the same audacity he became known for when he first began to breathe life into a dying Fiat in 2004. By the end of this year, he predicts, the smallest of Detroit’s Big Three automakers will break even. In 2011, it will turn a profit, and by the end of 2014 Chrysler will have paid back all of the $7.3 billion in loans from the Canadian, Ontario and US governments.

To do it, he says, Chrysler must rebuild brand equity and “put the customer back at the centre of what we do.” He’s also working to streamline the manufacturer’s distribution network — to set up new, stringent standards for...
force

without loss of limbs. It's a competitive marketplace and our competitors know we're suffering from a deficiency of new products. They'll try and leverage that against us,” admits Marchionne. “We need to get to the next Detroit show — and launch an advertising campaign that assigns a social context to Chrysler’s products. Marketing the low emission standards of Fiat's fleet was at the heart of that company’s revival. By working together, he believes, Fiat and Chrysler can save billions of dollars in vehicle development costs through the use of common engines, transmissions and platforms.

“The next 12 months will be most difficult for us,” admits Marchionne. “We need to get to the next Detroit show — and launch an advertising campaign that assigns a social context to Chrysler’s products. Marketing the low emission standards of Fiat's fleet was at the heart of that company’s revival. By working together, he believes, Fiat and Chrysler can save billions of dollars in vehicle development costs through the use of common engines, transmissions and platforms.

“Let them. Marchionne says of his work at Fiat and Chrysler, “which is the least dangerous way to practise.” Marchionne directly oversees both companies' legal departments, a fact of which he is most proud.

“Everything we do has a legal interface. When I interface with outside counsel, the framework of discussion is completely different thancarmaker’s board.

While he’s quick to say that his business degree factors most significantly in his experiences and successes to date, law is a close second. “I practise law from the inside,” he says of his work at Fiat and Chrysler, “which is the least dangerous way to practise.” Marchionne directly oversees both companies’ legal departments, a fact of which he is most proud.

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“Everything we do has a legal interface. When I interface with outside counsel, the framework of discussion is completely different than

of the Chrysler Corporation in the 1980s: “We talked about the stuff he did that was appropriate and innovative for the time, but totally inappropriate for the marketplace today,” says Marchionne. “He broke every mold. We must replicate this, particularly his speed of execution.”

Marchionne’s pace is relentless to be sure. And he has no intention of quitting until both Fiat and Chrysler are “true winners that he’s already started planning his encore.

“Want to return to Osgoode and attend some of the lectures I missed,” he says without missing a beat.

“What a phenomenal way to draw things full circle.”

Christine Ward is a freelance writer who lives in Kingston, Ontario and a frequent contributor to Continuum.
The best that can be said about the design of Osgoode Hall Law School is that the architects meant well. In almost every other respect, the building could serve as a model of what should be avoided at all costs.

Of course, ideas evolve; what one generation considers a triumph, the next dismisses as failure. In this case, however, it’s unlikely anyone would argue with a $50-million scheme that will remake the 1968 structure from top to bottom. The renovation, done by the well-known Toronto firm of Diamond and Schmitt Architects Inc., is intended to reinvent a facility that has outlived the mindset that produced it.

The same sort of program is happening around the world. Keep in mind that when Osgoode opened almost a half-century ago, architectural thinking held that the institution should be a place set apart. Context was best ignored, certainly not celebrated. Thus the preponderance of thick-walled windowless boxes, generic structures deliberately designed to present a blank face to the world. The same philosophy can be seen in hospitals, museums, community centres as well as schools.

The idea was to create buildings immune to the distractions of the larger community. Daylight and fresh air could be provided mechanically, so there was no need for anything as archaic as windows, operable or otherwise. They made it hard for students to concentrate. Today this may strike us as hubristic, but still we continue to construct hermetically-sealed towers filled with air that has been inhaled many times before.

In the hierarchical mentality of the ’60s and earlier,
The Toronto Star’s architecture critic offers his opinion of our building.

by Christopher Hume

the architects’ job was not so much to cater to the user as the institution. For students, discomfort came with the territory. It was something to be suffered through quietly and worn later as a badge of honour.

Today, however, users are paramount. Students can no longer be dumped into murky classrooms at the end of interminable hallways and left to fend for themselves. The expectation now is that learning should be less top-down, more engaging and participatory. It can be hard to muster that sense of engagement in a large, dimly lit lecture room whose stuffiness and isolation make you want to run screaming.

“One of the things that unites our alumni is their dislike for the building,” admits Osgoode Director of Advancement, Anita Herrmann. “That’s largely because of its lack of light. It was a bunker-like building. The whole point of the new design is to create greater connections between students, faculty and staff.”

Little wonder then that graduates responded to the project so enthusiastically. They attended Osgoode in the days when their professors stood in front of a blackboard talking to dozens if not hundreds of students at a time. Now, class sizes and classrooms are both smaller; computers and other electronic devices have replaced chalk. Contemporary attitudes can also be seen in the proliferation of gathering spaces and communal areas that would once have been thought of as next to unnecessary, even superfluous. This is another example of the current desire for openness, in every sense of the word. The walls that divided students from teachers and indoors from out are coming down where possible, and where not, pierced with windows.

So far, there’s not much to see, but who could doubt that windows will transform Osgoode’s impenetrable redbrick exterior. More than anything, the building looks like some early modernist fortress, not a place one is welcome. Even the main entrance feels like an afterthought. And once inside, the visitor is confronted with a rabbit warren of hallways and doors that all seem to lead nowhere. The only thing missing is the March Hare.

As for the concrete-block walls, they speak more of utility than the nobility of higher education. Diamond and Schmitt will also remove stairwells and floors to carve an atrium in the heart of the building. Future students can look forward to a completely remade cafeteria, junior common room and work stations. In other words, they can expect to be at a school where they have space to work and a decent environment in which to do it. They can also anticipate not having to leave the world behind every time they go to class.

This is an important fact, symbolically as well as physically. After all, the law and law education must be seen as a part of life, not something separate. However unintended, that was the message of the original Osgoode. Even in the context of the York University campus, it was aloof. The York campus itself has also undergone huge change. From a wind-swept commuter complex, York has remade itself in the image of a small town; buildings are closer together now, distances are walkable.

“Too often,” argues Jack Diamond, “architects design from the outside in, then stuff function into it. Practical people design from the inside out....We design buildings that support both the aspirations and the functional requirements of their users. It’s both content and context that inspire me.

“The content in this case is a law school that is lacking in light and clear circulation paths. People work and study in silos. Visitors don’t know where to go or how to get there. There are no natural connections, which are so necessary in a learning environment.”

Fortunately, the Osgoode project qualified for federal infrastructure funding, which was granted in May, 2009. The terms of the program meant that the renovation had to be “shovel ready,” which it was. In addition to various private donations — including $2.5 million from businessman Ignat Kanef - the federal and provincial governments will contribute a total of $25 million toward the construction and the remainder of the funding will come from gifts to The Building Osgoode Campaign and from York University.

“The project was necessary because from the start we had persistent complaints that the building wasn’t student-friendly,” explains former Osgoode Dean and now York Provost, Patrick Monahan. “It just didn’t provide a sense of belonging. We needed more space and better space, space that will bring faculty, staff and students together and contribute to the growth of community.”

As Monahan, a driving force behind the transformation, makes clear, “This is the most important development for Osgoode since our move to York 42 years ago. It will transform our building into one of our greatest assets, giving us a student-centred facility that is the best amongst Canadian law schools and amongst the best in North America.”

Christopher Hume is the Urban Issues and Architecture columnist for The Toronto Star.
Earlier this year, Archana Sridhar (Associate Director of the Hennick Centre) sat down with Osgoode Professor Aaron Dhir to talk about the consultation, which he co-convened with Professor Sara Seck of the University of Western Ontario.

In November 2009, Osgoode Hall Law School (the Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security and the Hennick Centre for Business and Law) convened an expert meeting titled “Corporate Law and Human Rights: Opportunities and Challenges of Using Corporate Law to Encourage Corporations to Respect Human Rights.” The event was supported by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the assistance of Export Development Canada and Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

The multi-stakeholder consultation brought together corporate lawyers, civil society, academics, government regulators and industry representatives in support of the Corporate Law Tools Project of John Ruggie, a Harvard University Professor and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) on Business and Human Rights.

The SRSG was appointed in 2005 by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with a broad mandate to identify and clarify standards of corporate responsibility and accountability regarding human rights, including the role of states.
Q: How did the Expert Consultation come to be hosted at Osgoode?

The idea of a consultation exploring the intersections of corporate law and human rights actually originated in 2007 during an informal chat with the SRSG over a coffee break at an expert consultation in Copenhagen. That consultation was held in support of the SRSG’s work on the state duty to protect. Since Osgoode is home to several academics who work in the corporate social responsibility field broadly, it seemed like a natural fit.

Q: The Expert Consultation brought together an incredible group of people from different places, representing different viewpoints – can you comment on the range and depth of the proceedings?

One of the most exciting things about the consultation was the level of diversity in the room. In terms of geographic diversity, we had participants who had traveled to Toronto from India; China; Singapore; Australia; South Africa; Algeria; Brazil; Mexico; and various parts of Europe, the US and Canada. In terms of viewpoint diversity, we had a breadth of expertise in the room, with representatives from civil society, government, academia, corporations, corporate law firms, the socially responsible investment community etc. As a result, there was a really rich and robust discussion on how key corporate and securities law tools and concepts may support companies to respect human rights.

Q: What kinds of corporate law concepts did the stakeholders find to be important for improving the human rights records of corporations?

The consultation had eight sessions over two days and focused on the subject areas that were included in the law firm mapping phase of the SRSG’s project. By way of background, in early 2009 the SRSG announced the Corporate Law Tools Project. The initial phase involved 19 leading corporate law firms from around the world helping Professor Ruggie to identify whether and how corporate and securities law in over 40 jurisdictions currently fosters corporate cultures respectful of human rights. In particular, the firms were asked to follow a research template exploring subjects such as incorporation and listing; directors’ duties; reporting; stakeholder engagement; and other corporate governance issues as expressed in national laws and guidelines.

Q: What advances are being made in this area right now in Canada?

Quite a bit has been happening as of late. For example, at the federal level, the government sponsored the “National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility.” This process was designed to address corporate social responsibility issues vis-à-vis the developing world operations of the mining and oil and gas sectors. The final Advisory Group Report arising from the Roundtables was released in March 2007. In March of 2009, the government announced its official corporate social responsibility action plan.

At the provincial level, the Ontario Securities Commission recently convened a roundtable titled “Review of Environmental and Corporate Governance Disclosure Requirements.” That meeting was convened pursuant to a motion unanimously passed by the Ontario Legislature calling on the Commission to review current corporate reporting standards and to produce recommendations to the Finance Minister for enhanced disclosure. The Commission’s report was just released in December 2009.

I was fortunate to participate in both of these processes and I think the corporate social responsibility related discourse in Canada will continue to expand and to cover increasingly complex terrain.

Q: Now to end on a big question: How will the Expert Consultation change the world? In other words, what impact do you think it will have on the state of business and human rights?

(Laughter) The consultation was an extraordinarily important event and Osgoode was honoured to be a part of it and delighted to assist the SRSG.

That being said, it was really designed as a first step in providing the SRSG with a range of viewpoints on what practical recommendations to states may be feasible. In that sense, it created an expert platform for brainstorming legal and policy reform in this area. And I believe we were able to provide the SRSG with much food for thought as he continues to fulfill his UN mandate and contemplates his next report to the UN Human Rights Council.
Awards & Appointments

Professor Aaron Dhir Receives Two Prestigious Awards

The South Asian Bar Association of Toronto (SABA) presented Professor Aaron Dhir with its 2009 Young Practitioner of the Year Award at its annual awards dinner in November. SABA is the Greater Toronto Area’s premier legal organization dedicated to promoting the objectives of South Asian members of the legal profession. The keynote speaker for the event was former Supreme Court of Canada justice Frank Iacobucci. Other guest speakers were Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley and MPP Harinder Takhar, Minister of Government Services. Attendees included members of the judiciary, members of the South Asian diplomatic community, lawyers from major law firms in the city, and representatives of the Ontario Bar Association and select corporations.

In 2009, Dhir also won Osgoode’s Teaching Excellence Award in the category of full-time faculty member with less than 10 years of experience. Described by his nominators as “a brilliant professor and a genuine personality whose sense of humour keeps students engaged in an active and participatory environment,” Dhir joined Osgoode in 2007 and teaches in the field of business law.

Kudos to Professors Roxanne Mykitiuk and Dayna Scott

Professors Roxanne Mykitiuk and Dayna Scott are among the recipients of two five-year Team Grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for the study of environmental and reproductive health.

The CIHR grants, totaling $2,495,000 each, will allow the teams to study the effects of brominated flame retardants on development and reproduction, as well as the impact of exposure to phthalates, their metabolites and “green” plasticizers on male reproductive health.

The teams will include developmental and reproductive toxicologists, pediatricians, urologists, obstetricians, gynecologists, molecular biologists, epidemiologists, chemical engineers, ethicists and legal scholars.

Interim Dean Li recognized for Professional Achievement

Interim Dean Jinyan Li has been honoured with two prestigious awards. On October 25, the Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals (Ontario) Education Foundation gave her its 2009 Award of Merit. The award recognizes distinguished Chinese Canadians with outstanding achievements in their fields. The FCCP (Ontario) Education Foundation, a registered charity, was established in 1981 to promote the advancement of higher education. On November 14, the Education Foundation of the Chinese Professionals Association of Canada (CPAC) presented her with their Professional Achievement Award, which recognizes immigrants who have successfully transitioned into new careers in Canada and become successful professionals in their fields. CPAC is a not-for-profit organization serving immigrant professionals of Chinese descent.

From left to right: David Kuo, vice-president HSBC Bank of Canada’s Ontario East retail branch network, Osgoode Interim Dean Jinyan Li and Michael Chan, provincial Minister of Citizenship & Immigration, at the award presentation.
Europe Calls!

Professors Stepan Wood ’92 and Craig Scott have each been awarded a prestigious European fellowship that will take them overseas next year. Wood has been awarded a Jean Monnet Fellowship at the Robert Schumann Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence, where he will complete a project on “ISO 26000 and the Legitimation of Transnational Governance Authority in the Field of Corporate Social Responsibility” during his sabbatical next year. He is the fifth Osgoode faculty member to have been chosen as a Jean Monnet Fellow at EUI, following Professors Michael Mandel, Craig Scott, Peer Zumbansen and Robert Wai.

Scott, Director of the Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security, has been awarded a 2010 Ikerbasque Fellowship by the Basque Foundation for Science, a granting agency established by the Government of the Basque Country in Spain in 2008 with the mission to consolidate the Basque Country as “a European point of reference for excellence in the field of research.”

The Fellowship will support 12 months of personal research and collaboration with the Trans-Law Research Group of the University of Deusto in Bilbao. He will build on his existing scholarship pertaining to the civil liability aspects of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in relation to human rights and environmental protection, as well as interact with Deusto’s Trans-Law Research Group to widen the scope of the group’s study of economic law.

APPOINTMENTS

Mya Bulwa ’95 rejoined Osgoode on December 1, 2009 as Director of the Career Services Office. She had previously served at the Law School as Executive Assistant to the Dean and later as Senior Manager, Faculty Administration for York University. Bulwa article at Goodmans LLP and was a lawyer in the firm’s commercial litigation department until the spring of 1998.

Jacqueline Chrétien ’98 (LLM) Associate Director, Academic Programs joined Osgoode Professional Development in June 2009 and is responsible for OPD’s Part-time LLM programs as well as the LLM in International Business Law (IBL). The Part-time LLM is unique in Canada and consists of 15 different areas of specialization, which is expected to grow by at least two in 2010-2011.

Smriti Kapoor is the Manager of Advancement and will be working with alumni on planning their class reunions and the Osgoode Classic golf tournament. Kapoor is a York University graduate who hails from Queens, New York. She comes to Osgoode from Upper Canada College where she was Manager of Annual Giving.

Archana Sridhar is the Associate Director of the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law, a joint venture of Osgoode Hall Law School and the Schulich School of Business. Sridhar received her Juris Doctor (JD) degree from Harvard Law School and served most recently as the Assistant Dean for Research and Special Projects at Indiana University Maurer School of Law.
**1960’s**

Robert McIntyre ‘64 was recently recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Peel Law Association. He practises in Mississauga, Ontario.

**1970’s**

Paula Barran ‘79 is a Founding Partner at Barran Liebman LLP in Portland, Oregon. She has been selected by the Portland Business Journal as a 2009 Orchid Award Winner, the publication’s highest honour of achievement for women in business and was named “Woman Executive of the Year” in the Entrepreneur Category.

Sandra Brennan ‘77 joined the Niagara Regional Police Service in 1973 and retired in 1999. She currently resides in Niagara-on-the-Lake with her husband, Ed, and has three grown children.

Gary Davis ‘77 moved to the tropical north of Australia and was appointed in May 2009 as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law, Business and Arts at Charles Darwin University. He previously served two terms as the Dean of Law at Flinders University in Adelaide and 18 months directing a national exploration of best practices in Australian legal education.

Gilbert Laurin ‘75 retired from the Foreign Service in September 2008. His last assignment was as Canada’s Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris.

James Love ‘73, ‘86 (LLM) has been appointed to the position of Chair of the Board of Directors of the Royal Canadian Mint for a period of five years, effective April 2009. He is currently Chair of the Board’s Governance and Nominating committee. James is a Partner in the law firm Love and Whalen in Toronto. Since 2002, he has served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Legacy Private Trust. He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1982.

Dianne Saxe ‘74 is an Environmental Law Specialist and was honoured as one of the top 25 environmental lawyers in the world by Best of the Best, 2008.

**1980’s**

Louie Genova ‘84 and Mario Bellissimo ‘96 are co-authors of Immigration Criminality and Inadmissibility, published by Carswell in June 2009.

Mary Ann Mousseau ‘86 was appointed as Crown Attorney for the District of Kenora in October 2008.

Guy Phillips ‘82 recently retired after 24 years of practising military law with the Canadian Forces Office of the Judge Advocate General. He lives in Kingston, Ontario.

Milena Protich ‘83 joined Lee LLP as a Partner in October 2009. She practises in the area of civil, administrative and municipal litigation and the law of charities.

Robert Stack ‘83 has been appointed Judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. His son, Conor, is a first-year student at Osgoode.

Steve Zikman ‘84 is an environmental attorney and mediator based in Los Angeles. He specializes in issues related to sustainability, climate change and green building.

**1990’s**

Margarett Best ‘95 is the Minister of Health Promotion at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Sharon Carew ‘97 was promoted to Associate Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in August 2009.

Emily Cole ‘92 joined the Toronto office of Miller Thomson LLP as Associate Counsel specializing in Securities Litigation and Business Law. Emily was formerly Senior Litigation Counsel at the Ontario Securities Commission.

**1990’s**

Martin Cossette ‘98 is Senior Legal Counsel at Bell Canada. He was named as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Paul Crath ‘92 was recently appointed to Managing Director of Norvista Resources Inc., a private merchant bank dedicated to investments in the natural resources sector.

Dan Dagan ‘95 is a lawyer at Ontario Power Generation Inc. He was named as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Jeffrey Davis ‘95 was named as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Carmen Diges ‘98 is a Partner in McMillan’s Natural Resources Group. She was recently named as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Arthur Doyle ‘95 is a Partner at Cox & Palmer’s Saint John office. Lexpert named him among the “Canadian Corporate Lawyers to Watch” in 2009. Arthur was the only lawyer from Atlantic Canada among the 26 recognized. He was also named one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 for a second consecutive year in November 2009.

Jaroslaw Hawrylewicz ‘99 is the Director and Counsel for Barclays Capital in New York City and an avid mountain climber. He was in Australia in early November to complete the Seven Summits (the highest point on each of the seven continents) by climbing 2,228m / 7,310 ft Mt. Kosciusko. The other six summits he has reached are:

Kilimanjaro, Sept. ’98; Aconcagua, Dec. ’99 (Millennium Climb); Elbrus, Sept. ’02; Vinson Massif, Dec ’06; Everest, May ‘08 (Free Everest Climb); and Denali, May ‘09.
Jeande-Pierre Laporte ’99 was recently made Co-Chair of the Liberal Party of Canada Expert Working Group on Retirement Income Security, a consultative think tank designed to set the reform agenda for the pension system in the years to come.

Joseph Pasquariello ’94 was named one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Lionel Perez ’95 was recently elected Municipal City Councillor at Montréal City Hall with the ruling party of Union Montréal. He is also the Co-Founder and President of Corporation Centre.ca, one of Canada’s leading online legal document filing services firms. He is married and has four children.

John Pirie ’95 was named one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Warren Rudick ’99 was appointed to Assistant Vice-President, Legal with Mackenzie Investments, where he primarily practices investment fund law. He was also appointed by the Toronto City Council to serve as a Citizen Appointee (trustee) on the City’s Investment Advisory & Sinking Fund Committees. He continues to serve the Government of Canada on the Board of Directors of Parc Downsview Park.

Jason Saltzman ’95 is a Partner in Gowling’s Toronto Office. He was named as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Amanda Serumaga ’94 is the Head of Governance and Law Unit with UNDP Sudan, which implements programs to strengthen access to justice and promote the rule of law at the grassroots for marginalized communities and through work with the Government of National Unity in Sudan.

Rajeev Sharma ’97 has been Corporate Counsel in the Law & Patents Department of Bayer Inc. since 2007. He also teaches Economic Analysis of Law at Glendon College, York University.


Michael Sugerman ’97 is the President of Foresee Computing Inc., which celebrated its 10-year anniversary of the incorporation of the company this past October.

Mark Veneziano ’96 was named as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40 in November 2009.

Joe Wong ’95 was appointed in 2008 as a Member of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). The OMB is one of the province’s oldest adjudicative tribunals and its members hear appeals and applications on a wide range of municipal and land-use related matters.

Felicia Zeidman ’97 has married and moved to the New York area, where she is working at the Canadian Division of an immigration law firm to help US-based individuals and companies “make their move” to Canada. Her background in criminal law allows her to focus on criminal problems in immigration.

2000’s

Edward Canuel ’05 (LLM) is a diplomat with the US State Department in Washington, DC, where he is a climate change negotiator. His diplomatic portfolio includes serving as liaison to Europe on climate change issues, market readiness mechanisms, renewable energy and public/private partnerships.

Victoria Cornick ’03 is working as a prosecutor with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada in the Winnipeg office.

Antonio Di Domenico ’05 and Catherine Koch ’02 welcomed beautiful baby girl Caroline Liliana Di Domenico on August 10, 2009.

Douglas Downey ’08 (LLM) is designated as a Specialist in Real Estate Law by the Law Society of Upper Canada. He was recently recognized as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Jacob Koifman ’03 has been appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Jewish Family Services Agency of Vancouver for a two-year term.

Faisal Kutty ’06 is currently a PhD candidate and Adjunct Professor and has recently started to serve as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Valparaiso University School of Law in Indiana.

Tara Mackay ’00 joined Torys LLP as a Senior Associate in the Infrastructure and Energy Group in November 2009.

Warren Martinson ’07 is the Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at the Alberta Insurance Council.

Douglas Melville ’98 (LLM) has been appointed Ombudsman and Chief Executive Officer at Canada’s Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments (OBSI) based in Toronto. As an alternative to the legal system, OBSI resolves consumer disputes from over 600 banking and investment firms across Canada.

Waled Soliman ’01 is a Partner at Ogilvy Renault and identified as one of Lexpert’s Rising Stars: Leading Lawyer Under 40.

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<td>Laura Vittoria Masella</td>
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<td>Nadia Shevchuk-Mancini</td>
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